

West Hartford Substance Abuse Prevention Commission (SAPC)
Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2017

Roll Call: Dave Eppner, Nordia Napier, Joan Biagioni, Ben Grippo, Dave Pauluk, Joe Kalach, Mitch Irving, Student (3 from Conard), Sagar Patel, Leo Negron, Hellen Drohan, Ed D'Adio, John Mancini, Joanna Curry-Sartori, Jacqueline Dulude, Amal Ali, Chastity Rodriguez, Grace Johnson

Absent: Gretchen Nelson, Jean Schensul

Approve Minutes: December minutes approved by vote.

Public Forum:

John Mancini- Gave updates re trying to schedule "Fight the New Drug" as he'd been given some funding for this from CASAC grant. Aiming for one presentation and not try to go into schools, so do at town hall or church. Waiting to see if he can raise additional funding needed to do this this year.

Appointments

- Chair for SAPC
 - Jaclyn Dulude is available to serve as co-chair. (last meeting SAPC voted for her to be part of this team)
 - Dave Eppner presented his skill and interest to serve with Jaclyn as co-chair. Dave works for Hartford Dispensary. He is working on getting his licensure. He has been in Substance Abuse field for about 10 years and also worked in field of criminal rehab. He has been a resident of West Hartford for almost 30 years. He has seen impact of Substance abuse on our community, region and people. He is a member of the board for "Family in Crisis". He is on DHMAS institutional review board.
 - SAPC voted to approve Dave as co-chair.
- New Appointment
 - Kimberly Ambrose, Asst. Principal Hall High School requested to serve on commission and shared her interest and qualifications.
 - Assuming she is approved by Town Council, then Jahmal Hines, Conard HS will resign and attend as need to contribute to the agenda.
 - SAPC voted to recommend Kimberly Ambrose that town council appoint Kimberly to SAPC.
 - Students on Commission- discussed how to fill this role. Next Steps: Joanna will create blurb/ job description and application and due date for Freshman – Juniors. For BOE- let principals know need students on SAPC. Chastity said they could put this in Kingswood Oxford daily bulletin. Ed D. will take to guidance counselors. Kimberly A will discuss at Hall and with principals. Lead by example will explore interested students.

Old Business

CASAC funding- Joe completed grant, it's approved, and now we are waiting on the money.

- Those funded need to use money by June 30.
- Next year we will prep more in advance in future so can plan better for significant projects.
- We should bring proposals by Sept so can move ahead earlier with our projects

New Business

Our Purpose: To advise town council on substance abuse prevention.

Ice Breaker/ Discussion: Reflect on one word that represents what prevention means to you in small groups and then share with large group.

Words Shared:

- Connections
- Family - actual family and peer groups- increase supportive connections (AA, NA, etc.).
Prevention of relapse
- Upstream- bigger systemic context re regulations, policy that might prevent. Might be more invisible than day to day prevention efforts.
- Knowledge
- Education
- Regulation
- Proactive
- Self-acceptance- normalize all human feelings, self- accept all best and worst parts
- Education- more accessible.
- Connection inside and out.
- Knowledge- family history- let them be aware of their own family history.
- Enforcement and consequences- if put yourself in these situations.
- Stop- Stop and don't do it.

Discussion: How can we bring our experiences, impressions, recommendations for prevention to town council?

- Reflect on -What can we do as a commission? What can we do to advise town council?
- How get pulse from town? University director, elder services. How make into concrete ideas?
- Substance abuse not just school issue. Remember E.g. Drop box at town location.
- E.g. Educational session for adults
- We could make sub teams to drill down on specific topics mentioned in ice breaker, e.g. who do we build connection/self-awareness? What are we doing about Education/knowledge, etc.-- find out what is, make informed recommendations.
- ICR- doing town assessment of needs and possible funding once they make recommendations.

Items for Next Agenda:

- Discussion continued: How come to recommendations for town council?
- ICR- updates and relationship with SAPC
- John Mancini- updates re fight the new drug

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanna Curry-Sartori

January 19, 2016

